

A RACE LIKE A FAMILY

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when we are considering a few generations of a single family. But it is fallacious in that it emphasizes direct succession, and conceals from us the immense importance of collateral interconnection.

We shall appreciate its deceptiveness if we consider the course of reproduction with reference to direct succession only. The number of our ancestors

doubles in each generation, and if we go back twenty generations the forbears of each of us must number a million. But the population of that time would not have sufficed to provide

ancestors in this number, for more than a few persons now existing, and it is obvious that,

owing to extensive intermixture of lines, a vast number of the present inhabitants of the British Isles must have ancestors in common. Where free intermarriage is checked by law or custom, a line propagates itself still more directly by the union of blood relations. The ancestry of the German

Emperor might have included 4,096 individuals

during the last twelve generations: as a matter of fact less than 550 persons within this period contributed to his birth. in so many cases have individuals filled several places in the genealogical

scheme, owing to the intermarriage of more or less distant cousins. It is easy to comprehend how in these circumstances family peculiarities of strength or weakness would be accentuated.

But such restrictions upon

intermarriage have not been general, and in the past there has. more-
over, been extensive intermixture of blood by illegitimate connections. So it has come about that, speaking generally, a race may be likened to a family, in that its propagation tends to repress divergences from a type or standard, and to produce a racial uniformity.